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(54) Container with lid

(57) Removal of lid 16 is impeded by a blocking member 40. At least part of this blocking member is irreversibly removable to permit removal of the lid, the appearance of the container then showing that it is not intact. For example, removal of the lid 16 may require upward and/or outward displacement of a peripheral wall 22, which extends into a peripheral channel of the blocking member around the mouth of the container. Part of the channel defining wall 42 of the container has a line of weakness 38 such that it can be torn away by pulling on a pull tab (43 Fig 1). The bottom edge of the peripheral wall of the lid then becomes accessible and can be flexed outwardly and upwardly. Preferably projections 24 on peripheral wall 22 of the lid snap engage in slot-defining surfaces 50 in the container rim.

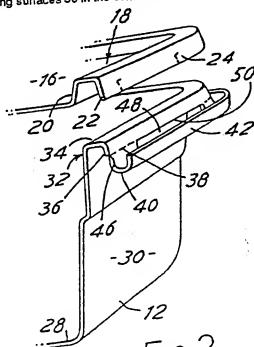


FIG. 2

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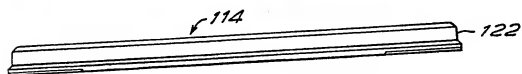
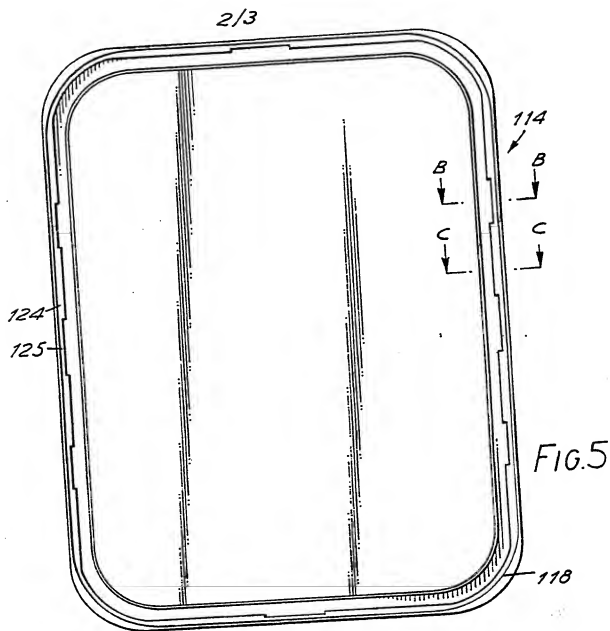


FIG. 6

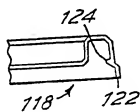


FIG. 7

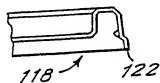


FIG. 8

CONTAINER WITH LID

The present invention relates to a container having a lid. It particularly relates to a container which is "tamperproof", in the sense that it is difficult or impossible to open an unopened container without leaving evidence that this has been done.

Thus the invention provides a container having a lid and a body, the lid and body being adapted for mutual engagement (e.g. having complementary engagement formations whose engagement resists removal of the lid); and wherein a blocking member is provided to impede the application of force to cause disengagement; at least a portion of said blocking member being permanently detachable to permit such application of force. The impeding may involve blocking access to a portion that must be displaced, and/or providing a barrier to displacement.

The lid and body may have engagement formations which comprise opposed detent surfaces, disengagement being possible if a detent surface is displaced transversely to prevent or reduce abutment with the complementary surface. The blocking member may impede such transverse displacement.

Disengagement may be effectable by applying upward force to the lid. The blocking member may shield a lower surface of the lid, rendering this difficult.

Thus one member (usually the lid) may have a first peripheral wall that embraces a second peripheral wall of

Some embodiments of the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a first embodiment, in 5 the unopened state;

Figs. 2 and 3 are perspective views partly in vertical section showing the lid and container prior to engagement; Fig. 3 is a section in the region of a projection of the lid, and shows the body with the blocking member removed;

10 Fig. 4 is a view similar to that of Fig. 1 showing the opening of the container;

Figs. 5 and 6 are an underneath plan view and an end elevation of a lid of a second embodiment;

Figs. 7 and 8 are part sections on "C" and "B" in Fig.

15 5;

Fig. 9 is a plan view of a body of the second embodiment;

Fig. 10 is a detail of Fig. 9 in the region of the pull tab;

20 Figs. 11 to 15 are details of vertical sections through the rim structure of the body of Fig. 9; Fig. 11 is a general section in the region of an end wall (from line Q to line Q in the direction of the arrows); Fig. 12 is a general section from line R to line R in the direction of 25 the arrows, taking in the other end wall; Figs. 13 to 15 are sections on line C-C, K-K and L-L respectively; and

Fig. 16 is a detail of an end elevation.

the lid, it is necessary to tear away the blocking member 40, as shown in Fig. 4. Of course, this does not remove the surfaces 50, so the lid can still be engaged on the body.

5 A disadvantage is that when the blocking member has been removed, the result is similar to an intact conventional tub. Thus it may not be apparent that the container has been opened. This disadvantage is ameliorated by the second embodiment 110 shown in Figs. 5
10 to 16. This is fundamentally similar to the first embodiment, and like elements have the same reference numerals but raised by 100. Thus there is a tub body 112 with a double-U rim structure 132, part of which provides a blocking member 140; and a lid 114 with a U-section rim 118
15 that provides projections 124 for engaging slots 148 in the body rim structure. However, the blocking member is removable over only a part of the periphery of the body, sufficient to give access to a portion of the outer limb 122 of the lid by means of which the lid can be pulled off
20 the body. In this example, this includes an end wall region and two corners, though one or more corner regions might suffice.

Thus Fig. 11 shows that the removable part 140' is connected to the permanent rim 118 via a thinned region, 25 providing a line (or zone) of weakness 138. The rest of the blocking member 140 (extending over one end wall and most of the two side walls) does not have this thinning:

CLAIMS:

1. A container having a lid and a body, the lid and body being adapted for mutual engagement and wherein a blocking member is provided to impede the application of force to cause disengagement; at least a portion of said blocking member being permanently detachable to permit such application of force.
2. A container according to claim 1 wherein the lid and body have complementary engagement formations whose engagement resists removal of the lid.
3. A container according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the blocking member effects said impeding by blocking access to a portion that must be displaced, and/or providing a barrier to displacement.
4. A container according to any preceding claim wherein the lid and body have engagement formations which comprise opposed detent surfaces, disengagement being possible if a detent surface is displaced transversely to prevent or reduce abutment with the complementary surface; and the blocking member effects said impeding by impeding such transverse displacement.
5. A container according to any preceding claim wherein either the lid or the body has a first peripheral wall that embraces a second peripheral wall of the other when the lid is engaged over a marginal portion of the body to close an opening, said walls having mutually engaging transversely extending detent surfaces such that the first wall must be

9. A container and lid substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.